IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method for managing virtual properties that exist solely in a virtual form within a computer network and that have no physical counterparts, comprising:

maintaining an inventory of said virtual properties in a centralized database accessible by a user property owners via a network connection;

allowing said property owners to transfer ownership of their respective virtual properties via said network connection;

managing maintaining updated records regarding ownership of said virtual properties in said centralized database; and

allowing <u>said property owners to</u> use but not possession of <u>possess</u> digital copies of said <u>respective</u> virtual properties by corresponding property owners within corresponding network spaces.

- 2. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said <u>step of</u> maintaining <u>step further an inventory</u> comprises searching for a desired one of said virtual properties within said inventory.
- 3. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said managing step of maintaining updated records regarding ownership further comprises associating said virtual properties with respective ones of said property owners.
 - 4. (Canceled)

Serial No. 09/837,852 August 3, 2005 Page 3

- 5. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 4 1, wherein said transferring step of allowing said property owners to transfer ownership further comprises allowing said property owners to sell their respective selling said one of said virtual properties to a customer buyers.
- 6. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 4 <u>1</u>, wherein said transferring step of allowing said property owners to transfer ownership further comprises allowing said property owners to trade their respective trading said one of said virtual properties for another ones of said virtual properties.
- 7. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 4 <u>1</u>, wherein said transferring step of allowing said property owners to transfer ownership further comprises allowing at least one of said property owners to winning win one of said virtual properties from another property owner in the course of a game.
- 8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of coordinating with partners via said network to identify additional virtual properties not included in said inventory.

9. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented system for managing virtual properties that exist solely in a virtual form within a computer network and that have no physical counterparts, comprising:

a server connected to a network accessible by plural user property owner computers; and

an application program operable with said server to provide the functions of:

maintaining an inventory of virtual properties in a centralized database via said network connection;

<u>allowing property owners to transfer ownership of their respective virtual</u>
<u>properties via said network connection;</u>

managing maintaining updated records regarding ownership of said virtual properties in said centralized database; and

allowing <u>said property owners to</u> use but not possession of digital copies of said <u>respective</u> virtual properties by corresponding property owners within corresponding network spaces.

- 10. (Original) The system of Claim 9, further comprising a memory connected to said server and having a database of all said virtual properties maintained by said computer system.
- 11. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 9, wherein said maintaining <u>an</u> <u>inventory</u> function <u>further</u> comprises searching for a desired one of said virtual properties within said inventory.
- 12. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 9, wherein said managing maintaining updated records regarding ownership function further comprises associating said virtual properties with respective ones of said property owners.

13. (Canceled)

Serial No. 09/837,852 August 3, 2005 Page 5

- 14. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 13 9, wherein said transferring allowing property owners to transfer ownership function further comprises allowing said property owners to sell their respective selling said one of said virtual properties to a customer buyers.
- 15. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 13 9, wherein said transferring allowing property owners to transfer ownership function further comprises allowing said property owners to trade their respective trading said one of said virtual properties for another ones of said virtual properties.
- 16. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 13 9, wherein said transferring allowing property owners to transfer ownership function further comprises allowing at least one of said property owners to winning win one of said virtual properties from another property owner.
- 17. (Original) The system of Claim 9, further comprising the function of coordinating with partners via said network to identify additional virtual properties not included in said inventory.